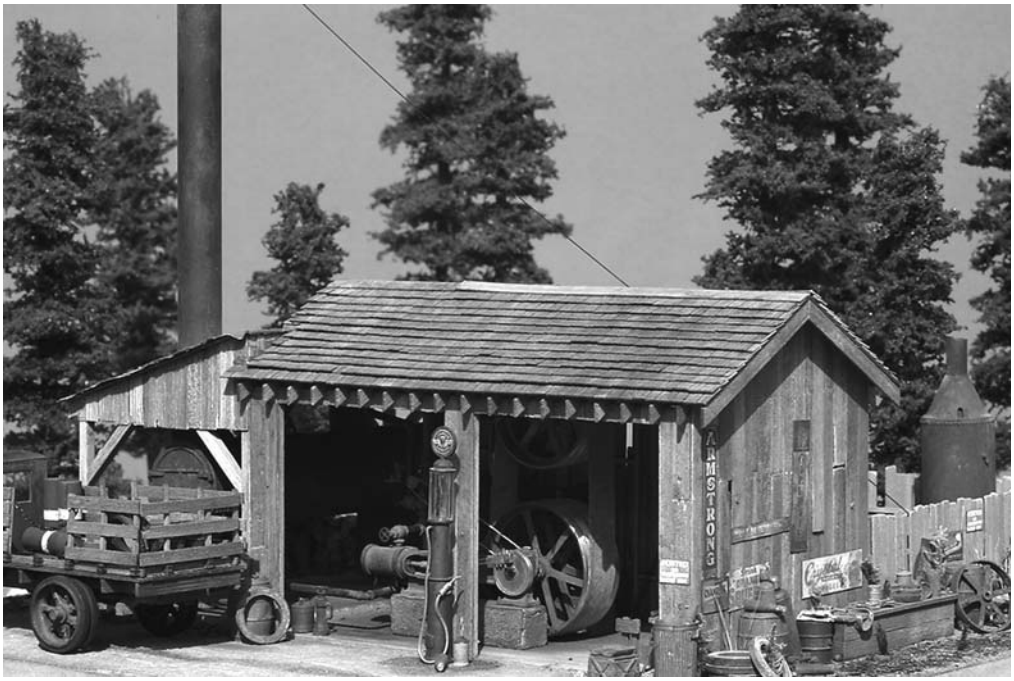
The Marker Lamp

Volume 55 **Number 1** **Winter 2009**



Want to learn how to assemble craftsman kits like the one above? Come to the Trinity River Interchange, June 3-7 and learn from Brett Gallant owner of Sierra West Scale Models.

Henry Tolley
2-20-49 to 1-12-09

Trinity River Interchange
LSR 2009

June 3 - 7, 2009

WWW.TRINITYRIVERINTERCHANGE.COM

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The Marker Lamp

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National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 55, Number 1

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region** of **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

Correspondence relating to Pike Ads, Dealer Ads, Address Changes and requests for extra copies should be addressed to **Elbert Smith, 518 Granada Drive, Garland, Texas 75043-5118. (972) 681-0117**

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President's Message

by Jerry Schoenberg, MMR

SUPPORTING THE TEAM

Just a short message this time on a subject that I feel is very important to our hobby in the Lone Star Region. As I watched the Dallas Cowboys go down in drastic defeat and again miss the playoffs, I thought how the concept of "supporting the team" applies to us as model railroaders. When I took the Cowboy flag down from the front yard, with some irritation, I remembered that it also flew high when the "boys" won only one game.

Just like in football, our hobby is made up of players with various personalities and different ambitions. We have the quiet players that get the job done and are always dependable, and we have the noisy players that do less and need motivation. Some times the only support any player needs is a "thank you" or a positive comment.

One of the big ways we can "support the team" is by volunteering. Divisions, Regions and the NMRA can not function without volunteers. I know that sometimes it seems as if the same players carry the ball, but with some effort, we must keep drafting new players for our future. Volunteering makes you feel good; you are usually appreciated; you are "giving back" to the hobby; you are gaining a learning experience; and you are participating in the NMRA Achievement program.

Support is needed most when directed toward individual efforts. When you attend a clinic or visit a model railroad, it is important to provide positive comments from your participation. And, when you are judging or admiring a model, it is important to point out all the positive areas of construction. "Supporting our team" in this way will contribute to lasting friendships in the LSR.

I think our effort to "support the team" is even more important than usual regarding our 2009 Convention—Trinity River Interchange. The convention is scheduled for June 3-7, 2009 in the DFW area. The important thing to realize is that the convention **will** take place. The preparations by all the volunteers **will** be made; the bills **will** be paid; the clinics, contests, tours, and sessions **will** all be conducted, and the free rides on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad **will** be available. The big unknown is who **will** come.

This is not the best of times, and a true effort of participation is needed. If we "support the team", we shall be successful, and your Region will be able to make the following convention even more rewarding for all of us.

See you at the Trinity River Interchange,

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

Christmas is over and the decorations have come down for another year. Having a grandson that is interested (maybe obsessed like his grandfather, he takes his Thomas the Tank engines to bed with him, I haven't done that yet) in trains made things all the better for me over the holidays. When he arrives at our house he heads to the back door and points to my building in the back yard saying Choo Choos. Since he has done so well with taking care of his Thomas, Laurie and I decided to let him take the next step even though he is just 3. So we bought him a Lionel Thomas the Tank train set. We mounted it on a board that would fit under his bed when he wasn't playing with it. Naturally, it was a big hit on Christmas morning as he watched and controlled his first electric train make its way around the small circle of track. When the time came for them to return to Houston he was very concerned when his new layout wouldn't fit in their vehicle. The decision was made that we would follow them to Houston to deliver the layout, he made sure it was removed from the house and loaded for the trip.

We participated again in the San Jacinto Model Railroad tour of home layouts. While the crowd wasn't quite as large as last year it was still a fun event. I enjoy seeing the children look over the trains and when I hand the throttle to some of them they just beam with pride and they run the train and blow the whistle. That makes the work of the open house worth the effort. An open house also gives you that deadline to get more work done on buildings and scenery.

Laurie and I also took time over the Christmas break to spend a few days at the Southern Forest Heritage Museum in Long Leaf, LA working on my pet project, the archives. We had outgrown the present room and had to share it with files, office supplies and many other items so we cleaned out a larger room and reorganized the archives into a room of their own. Lots more space to organize and sort the files and plenty of work space for the computer and scanner. The museum will be having their major fund raiser, Heritage Days on April 17th. If you get a chance, it is well worth the drive. I will be spending the day driving one of the rail speeders moving people up the hill to the engine house and Laurie will be working in the Gift Shop, making for a very tiring day but worth the effort. They will have the forge and belt powered machines all operating so bring your camera and see how railroads and sawmills operated back in the 1930's

WWW.TRINITYRIVERINTERCHANGE.COM/GAZETTE

"Trinity River Interchange Gazette"

the "official newsletter" of the 2009 LSR NMRA Convention

Contributors: Larry Swigert, Jerry Hoverson, TC Carr, Matt Latham and The 2009 Convention Team

A Word From Jerry's Corner…

Jerry Hoverson
Convention Chairman

Hi everyone.

I hope you are making plans to join all the fun this June at your 2009 LSR convention, the **Trinity River Interchange**. I know Divisions 1 & 3 are planning lots of fun activities for you! You can expect 5 **GREAT DAYS** of trains, socializing, and even a chance to learning a thing or two to improve your modeling. Now, just how could you ask for more then that ?

You probably already know that the **Trinity River Interchange** will be the **3rd to the 7th of June, 2009**, and the host hotel for this year's Convention will be the Sheraton Grand, just north of the Dallas/Fort Worth airport on Hwy 114.

But what you don't know is that the **Sheraton Grand** has extended the LSR special rate so you can arrive up to 3 days before and stay up to 3 days after the convention at the same discounted room rate. Hey, why not take a couple of extra days for a DFW extended vacation and do some of the things that momma wants to do? Last issue I said "this year's convention is just as much for the ladies and family as it is for the guys," and that's still true.

Hey… You're already here, so make this a special summer vacation for the whole family and stay an extra day or two.

One last point before we get to the updates and let you fill out your Registration form… Divisions 1 & 3 would like to extend a **special invitation** to our new LSR members and those old hats who, for whatever reason, haven't attended one of these premier **annual LSR events**. Come see what you've been missing! **The Trinity River Interchange** will even have a "New Attendee Orientation Welcome Party" for you first timers. So, be sure to know that your 2009 convention team is eager to make you feel welcome and help you easily be part of the all of the fun and fellowship of this **great LSR summer vacation experience!**

The 2009 Trinity River Interchange...

"A great chance to meet other fellow model railroaders, make new friends, and get more out of your hobby!"

Now, here are the updates from YOUR 2009 CONVENTION TEAM :

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2009 –
Jerry Hoverson and Chris Atkins

The 2009 Convention gets an exciting kick-off Thursday evening with the **FREE "Trinity River Interchange Great Train Ride"!** Join other model railroaders and their families for an adventure back into the glory days of early Texas aboard the 1920' and 30's Victorian style coaches of the **Vintage Grapevine Railroad.**

And what a GREAT time we'll have doing it !

We'll depart from the historic Grapevine Rail Station.

The station is located in the Cotton Belt Railroad District of Grapevine, home to many historical gems such as the Grapevine Historical Museum, the Blacksmith's shop, the Farmers' Market

and many restored pieces of vintage railroad equipment.

Light refreshments will be served along the way AND we'll be entertained by the fantastic vocal group, **"4 Ever Young"**. They are Dallas's premier Doo-Wop singing group, specializing in 50's and 60's rock-n-roll. You can learn more about them by visiting www.4ey.com. Now if these guys can't make your mind wonder back to the days when gas was 29 cents/gallon with green stamps, the Twist was the dance of the day, and steam still roamed the rails of the country, well.... just don't know what will!

After the first leg of your journey, you arrive in Ft. Worth at the Stockyards Station, the largest train station in the Southwest with more than 85,000 square feet of shopping, dining and meeting facilities.

Located in the heart of the Fort Worth Stockyards, the Stockyards Station exemplifies Texas by providing an exciting blend of old and new with Historic Walking Tours that visit the Texas Trail of Fame, The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame and more… over 25 unique shops including a winery, art gallery and great restaurants that offer anything from ribs to enchiladas.

One last photo op is watching your engine turned on the turntable…

And then it's all aboard for the return trip home.

A great train ride, entertainment along the way, 2 vintage rail facilities, fun shopping & site seeing, a working turntable, and photo ops all of the way…

The "Trinity River Interchange Great Train Ride"

It's not just a train ride…

It's a great evening of fun you won't soon forget!

And remember, the **"Trinity River Interchange Great Train Ride"** is sponsored by the **Lone Star Region** and is totally **FREE** to ALL convention attendees.

CLINICS -
Paul Richardson

Whatever you want to learn in a clinic, the 2009 Trinity River Interchange will have it!

Here is just a few examples: Brett Gallant, owner of Sierra West Scale Models will be on hand to give his excellent clinic on "Building Craftsman Kits."

Miles and Fran Hale, MMR, the couple you have seen on all of the Woodland Scenics Clinics, will come in from Kansas City to be on hand to answer your modeling questions and present **"Building Walthers 3-in-1 Kits".**

Also, **John Lowrance, MMR** will show us all about **"Setting the Scene"**. This clinic is based on the observation that *"Today we have the very best selection of highly detailed structures, vehicles, figures, details and scenery products ever available in the history of model railroading; yet many people still have difficulty mixing these components together into a realistic scene."*
John will provide all of the basic things that help create realistic scenes. Some of the topics include: Why scenery may be the most important part of your layout; Nature's laws that must be followed; Setting a season and time period; Every scene tells a story; How much detail is needed; Control of views; Placement of structures; and more.

Besides these wonderful presentations, here are just a few of the other clinics scheduled for you at your **2009 LSR Convention:**

"Tools of the Trade": Tracy Mitchell, MMR
"Tortoise Control & Diode Matrix": Jerry Hoverson, MMR
"Skyboard Painting": Gary Rush
"Operations 101": Tom Crosthwait and Fred Bock, MMR
"Operations": Lee Johnson
"Structure Construction": Bob Brendle
"Modeling Prototypical Industrial Details": John Best
"Aspen Trees": Charlie Kirk
"Why Prototype": Ed McCamey
"The Achievement Program": Pat Harriman, MMR and Paul Richardson, MMR
"Stony Creek & Western - 40 years of operation": Gil Freitag, MMR

COMPANY STORE –
Russ Covitt

We are proud to announce the unveiling of this year's great apparel to commemorate your visit to the **2009 LSR Convention**. We'll have both polo and dress versions of The Convention Shirt and they look FANTASTIC! And to complete your ensemble we have a matching **2009 Trinity River Interchange** ball cap that will make you the envy of the crowd. Since everyone will be wanting these, we chose a second color for the

convention staff shirt. That way you'll be able to pick them out of the crowd easily when you need some assistance.

You can check these great items out as well as many others on the website: **www.trinityriverexchange.com**. To make sure you get yours in time for the convention, you may place your order with your registration today.

LAYOUT TOURS –
Steve Willis

If **Layout Tours** are what you like at your convention, we have over 70 layouts within easy driving distance from this year's convention. Almost 1/3 of these have already confirmed for the **2009 Trinity River Interchange** with more to come!

As a result, we are excited to be bringing you our best layout tour yet. We have something for just about everyone, representing nearly every scale. There will be awesome large layouts, examples of what can be done with limited space, and everything in between. Each one is loaded with ideas to get you excited about building or adding on to your own layout or modeling project.

You'll get to see layouts that are just underway all the way up those that are nearly complete. Below are some of the layouts that are going to be on tour. Even better, there will be more (lots more) to come, including a few surprises. Now, if this hasn't gotten you excited, well... we're just gonna have to come and check you for a pulse.

HERE IS A PARTIAL LIST OF THE LAYOUTS:

Jim Aust HO Great Northern
Don Murphey HO St. Louis, Atlantic, and Pacific
Stan Pirzchalski HO MDAK
Jim Packer HO Nevadun Railroad
Tim Blackwell N Whitehurst and Pine Ridge
Olaf Melhouse N Dakota Northern
Jim Norwood HO Kansas City Southern
David Davis MMR HO DTS
Steve Willis HO Colorado Southwestern.
Mike Haas HO Westbrooke Parkway
Chip Romig S and Sn3 Colorado and Silver River
Jerry Hoverson MMR HO Rocky Mountain Central/ Hon3 Colorado Pacific
Richard Cook N Sand Springs Railway
Brady McGuire O Southwestern Pennsylvania
Jack Orr HO Raton and Overland
Marc Lachey Sn3 Cripple Creek and Tin Cup
Elbert Smith HO Graham Branch of the Rock Island
Bennie Shields G 12 Oaks Railroad
Darrel Smith HO Texas and Pacific
Texas Western Model Railroad Club HO /HOn3Texas Western
South Side Railroad Modelers HO South Side and Rio Mesa
Rolf Brugger HO Bear Creek Branch of the Southern Pacific

For more information on these layouts including the newest additions, go to the convention website at **www.trinityriverexchange.com**.

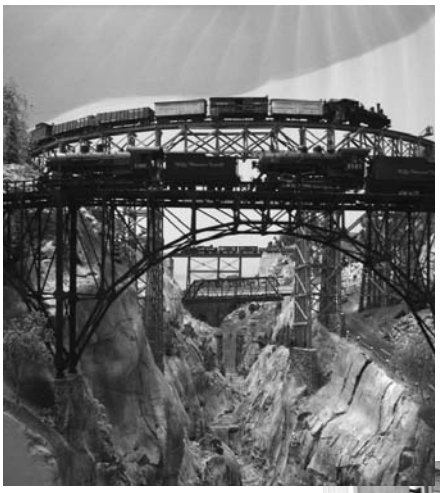
Also, for 2009 we will be featuring a "SUPER, Super Tour". More on that to come!

AUCTION –
Bill Dryden

Here's where ya' get rid of all of that stuff stacked in your closet or find that "hard to find" treasure. There will be an entire room full of goodies, just waitin' for you to come and find them at the **2009 LSR Silent Auction**.

OPERATING SESSIONS -
Jim Norwood

Have ya' ever gone to an operating session just itching to do a lot of switching and end up with the passenger train that doesn't do any? Well, if you operate at Chip Romig's S-Scale "Colorado and Silver River" the passenger job is one you'll want to get. Chip has a cab mock up that you'll sit in and run your train based on a camera in the nose of the engine. Kind of adds a whole new twist to the passenger train job!



Want to ride the narrow gauge through the Rockies or work a shay up a 4% switchback or how about performing prototypical logging operations? You'll have your chance on Jerry Hoverson's Rocky Mountain Central and the Colorado Pacific.

Feel like taking a freight train that has soooo much switching that you will need the entire session to run just that train or maybe you'd like to operate a steel mill with all the prototype moves or maybe you are a yard dog and want to operate a very large main terminal yard complete with full engine facilities and a 16 stall roundhouse. Those are just a couple of jobs available to you at the large South Side Railroad Modelers' South Side and Rio Mesa railroad.

That's just a few of examples of the great layouts you will have an opportunity to operate and I could go on and on. There's going to be plenty to choose from and we'll even have some small 1 to 3 operator layouts so if you're new to operations you can feel comfortable getting your feet wet and learning about this fun part of the hobby.

NON-RAIL -
Barbara Smith, Julia Davis, Mary Lou Schoenberg, & Phylis Hoverson

Clinics, wine tasting, and of course shopping are just a few things in store to make this a great, DFW vacation for the non-rails. Go to **"Petty Coat Junction"** section in this issue of the

Marker Lamp for all of the details.

CONTESTS -
Duane Richardson, MMR

Have you been working on something special? I sure hope so. Participating in the LSR Model Contest one of the greatest things I've ever done. I learned so much about what to do... and what not to do by entering models for judging.

Pick any Master Model Railroader and they will more than likely tell you that they got started in the Contest Room.

And keeping with LSR tradition, at the 2009 convention we have another **Special Contest**. This year's contest is **"The Square Foot"**. Build any model, in any scale, as long as if fits in 1 square foot (that's 12"x12" not something you wear on your feet). Now, I know in G that might be only half a car but in Z you could build most of North Dallas.

If you haven't gotten started yet it's not too late. Grab your scratch building supplies or a couple of kits to bash and get to building.

PROTOTYPE TOURS –
Les Brandt

This year's prototype tours will be outstanding!
Here is a list of just a few that are under consideration:
• Dart Facility
• TRE Shops
• Trinity Rail Plant
• McKinney Avenue Trolley
• UP Intermodel Yard
• Age of Steam Museum
• BNSF Control Center
• BNSF Aliance Yard
• Grapevine Vintage RR Shops
• Grain Elevator
• Garland Short Line

PUBLICITY –
Larry Swigert

Throughout the year, you will be receiving the latest edition of "The Trinity River Interchange Gazette," the official newspaper of the 2009 convention. It will feature "breaking news" to keep you updated on all of the new and exciting events as they are added to this year's convention fun.

Here's where we need your help! A recent LSR survey showed that some of the NMRA member information was either outdated or wrong. So, make sure that the LSR has your correct email & home address and phone number by…

emailing it to:
NMRAMemberInfo@AOL.com
or sending it regular mail to:
LSR/NMRA Member Information
6548 Clearhaven Circle
Dallas, Texas 75248.

The only way you can be sure and not miss out on anything in 2009 is by sending in your information TODAY!

SPONSORS & DOOR PRIZES-
Larry Swigert

What could be your best investment of 2009?

Answer: **Registering for the 2009 LSR Convention!**

Why? Because as of now, OVER $1000 in door prizes have been donated that you could take home with you from this year's LSR Convention, the 2009 Trinity River Interchange. That's right, I said over $1000! Not a bad return for a small registration fee!

Thanks to the support from some our fine sponsors such as Discount Model Trains and Hobbytown USA Dallas, the door prize total this year should be the largest of any convention yet. Other sponsors include Minute Man Press and Russ Rail Stuff.

And here is the best news... All you have to do is register for the convention and you will be automatically entered to win some of these great door prizes. So, send in the attached 2009 registration form now and get ready to take home some of these wonderful prizes.

Remember….
For a complete listing of all of the events at this year's convention, the 2009 Trinity River Interchange, go to our website www.trinityriverinterchange.com .

Well guys and gals,
MARK THAT CALENDAR TODAY FOR
The Trinity River Interchange
JUNE 3th. THRU THE 7th.
'CAUSE IT'S GONNA' BE FUN!

See ya thar' Podnah !

Divisions 1 and 3 of the
Lone Star Region NMRA
present the

Trinity River Interchange

Lone Star Region Annual Convention
June 3-7, 2009

www.trinityriverinterchange.com

early registration ends April 17, 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

NMRA Number: _____ Expires _____

Name for Badge: _____

Name of Spouse and other guests: _____

_____

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4440 W. John Carpenter Fwy
Irving, Texas 75063
(972) 929-8400

Ask for the Lone Star Region rate
$98 Single or Double occupancy
$128 for suite

These rates guaranteed for reservations on or before May 19, 2009 & are good for up to 3 days before and after the convention

Visit
www.sheratongranddfw.com
for more information

Your Registration Includes

- **The Great Trinity River Interchange Train Ride**
  - A ride on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad.
  - Thursday evening departing Grapevine at 7PM
- Admission to all non-fee clinics
- Admission to non-rail clinics
- Entry of your models at the contest room
- Access to the silent auction
- Admission to the Saturday night banquet featuring our guest speaker **Harold Carsten**. Retired editor of *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine
- Admission to the Sunday morning breakfast and annual Lone Star Region business meeting
- Admission to over 30 home and club layouts in the North Texas area
- Numerous Rail Fanning opportunities
- Opportunity to select from optional prototype tours, operating sessions and extra fare clinics

The **Trinity River Interchange** Convention Fee Schedule

www.trinityriverinterchange.com

REGULAR REGISTRATION	COST		QTY	TOTAL
Postmarked on or before April 17, 2009	$68	X		$
Postmarked after April 17, 2009	$78	X		$
SPOUSE REGISTRATION				
Postmarked on or before April 17, 2009	$68	X		$
Postmarked after April 17, 2009	$78	X		$
OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS				
Minors (6-16; includes train ride and Banquet)	$45	X		$
Minors under 6 free (includes train ride, no meals)				
OPTIONS				
Day pass (does not include meals or train ride)	$25	X		$
Thursday night train ride	$25	X		$
Saturday Banquet only	$35	X		$
Sunday Breakfast only	$15	X		$
EXTRA FARE				
Prototype tour #1	$20	X		$
Prototype tour #2	$20	X		$
Non-Rail Wine Tasting tour (includes bottle of wine)	$20	X		$
Operating Session Wednesday night (returned at session)	$10	X		$
Operating Session Friday night (returned at session)	$10	X		$
Convention Decals honoring Jack Leming Z N HO S O	$4	X		$
Convention Sport shirt: S M L XL 2XL	$28	X		$
Convention Dress shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL	$32	X		$
Convention Ball Cap	$12	X		$
Tortoise & Diode Matrix Clinic (includes all parts, limit 25)	$5	X		$
Walthers 3 in 1 kit Clinic (includes kit, limit 25)	$5	X		$
Non-Rail: Jewelry-Necklace (includes lunch)	$15	X		$
Full NMRA Registration for non-NMRA members	$58	X		$
NMRA Rail Pass – 6 Month Membership	$9.95	X		$
Surcharge if not staying at convention hotel or home	$50	X		$
			Total	$

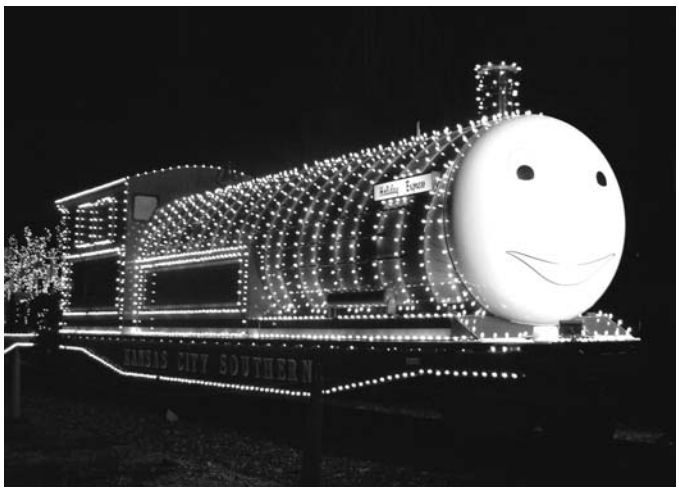
Make checks payable to "Lone Star Region"

Mail Registration forms to:

Chris Atkins, Registrar
1633 Parkside Trail
Lewisville, TX 75077
(214) 222-1285

Elf Stories-2008 edition

by Don Kimmell



The Elf is back, yes again. This was supposed to be an uneventful season…no major construction projects planned, just some on-going repair and maintance….yea, right!!! When have we heard that before?

Actually I knew we would be re-building the "small" Ho oval in the Elves' Workshop-also known as the green caboose. No big deal, or so I thought. We had all summer/fall to get it done, not too hard, just put down some roadbed, then flex track, wire and turn it into the North Pole. The "oval" would be on the floor directly under the cupola, passing from side to side, with a "walk-way" built over it. Have you ever tried to lay roadbed/track lying on your tummy? Try it, and you won't like it…of course this is on a steel floor….the fun never stops. Actually we had this accomplished by August, so the summer heat could do some baking…and it did, boy does flex track flex, kink, bend and get generally out of shape when subjected to 100 degree heat….By October the heat was gone, the track returned to a somewhat "normal" state, but my perfect oval was not so perfect, but a short train would run..And we had other problems to contend with…like the Santa (Red) Caboose, which was being repainted this year still was not back and October was over…"any day now…" we heard that a few times. It finally arrived the end of the first week of November, so we had 20 days to clean, clean and re-clean—they sandblasted the exterior prior to painting…looks great, but no one considered how much grit got into the interior…we found out that a yard blower will get the worst of the grit out, but you had better wear some protective gear…then on to decorate…..Done by November 24th…first show on Friday November 28th-this one for all the local KCS Employees—very important folks.

Of course there was the required bagging, like 2000+ done on the prior Wednesday. We did have some help, like, I drafted my wife—not really—she did volunteered, but the Head Elf did have some of the Porters from the "Belle" to help…So it only took 2 hours or so…aah, it's that time of the year again! The smell of plastic bags, candy, crayolas and coloring books…I love it!

So here we go…rainy night, cold-45-windy…is it Christmas yet? As usual I worked the "up" step…I do like the contact with all the happy (for the most part) kids. Of course those of us on the ground, got to wear ponchos over our "uniforms"…I am not too sure, but I think there was some concern about the wet material bleeding out….it was wet fun anyway. This year we again started at 4pm, or at least that was the plan—more about that later. Wonderful crowd, happy to see the Man-In-Red, with the usual long lists. Starting early allows us to finish early..like 7:30pm…short night, the first of 20+…

The following night was the "Official" start of the 2008 Holiday Express, down on the Shreveport riverfront. Again it was a 4pm start, but "…be here by 3:15pm, just in case…" I arrived at 3 or so, and the line had already started…a long night. Head Elf Willis, decided to get things started at 3:30pm, so off we go! This year we had a number of "newbie's"—first year elves, so some training (pun) had to be done…ah, first issue, SAFTEY!! Second issue, SAFETY!! Third…do not talk to any reporter…that is the Heads Elf's job, and then have fun!!! As usual Shreveport turned out. The two of us working the up step were kept busy from 3:30pm till 7:30pm…the line never got longer that a 30 minute wait, but they just kept coming…and then some…It was funny, here we have all these elves running around, but no one seemed to want to relieve the two up elves…strange, of course, Santa also did not get a break, so I guess we were in good company! We were very glad when the fireworks started, which signals the end of that night show. Off I go to home, I will not be officially getting on till 3 days later, still have a business to run.

The next night was Leesville, LA. We missed this wonderful town last year due to our "new generator" problems, so we have to make it this year. Of course the weather turned cold-40's, not too bad, good crowd. And our new elves received some on-the-job training in "proper" bagging procedures…. Are we having fun yet? After our only South Louisiana stop, we are off to East Texas—Jefferson! This was a first for us, we had never been to Jefferson, so we did not know what to expect, we did know that we would be blocking the "main" that night, and the city had planned their Christmas Festival and Parade around our appearance. Wow, they really did it right, excellent crowd, wonderful people and the Man-in-Red had a great time. Off to the West….Wylie Yard.

This was only the second time ever that the Holiday Express has visited the D/FW area, last time was in 2001, and no one knew we were there…well, to say things have changed is a bit of an understatement, we thought that folks would have a hard time finding the place…WRONG…no problems there, huge crowd, they just kept coming, to the tune of over 3600…more bagging, more bagging and then some more! The newer elves are now very well trained in bagging; in fact we had to draft some locals to also help. Are we having fun Yet? Off to Sulphur Springs.

By now the word is out…we are visiting East Texas, TV coverage and a wonderful story in the Dallas Morning News..it mentioned a couple of my small touches, and how enchanting the whole Holiday Express was. Well, the folks in Sulphur Springs did turn out..all 2600 plus…everyone thought this would be a lite night…ah, the fun of a train ride…go bag some more!! On to Vicksburg.

Continued on page 13

MINUTES OF THE LONE STAR REGION BOARD MEETING

Irving, TX – January 10, 2009 Minutes submitted by Elbert Smith, Secretary/Treasurer.

This mid-year board meeting called to order by President Jerry Schoenberg.

Roll call

The following officers were absent: Division 6 Director Fred Bock (proxy assigned to Chuck Lind); Directors at Large Bob Bray (proxy assigned to Chris Atkins) and Tracy Mitchell (proxy assigned to Ray Byer), Chairpersons Al Boos, Eunice Linda, Gary McMills, Virginia Freitag and Jim Long. The Youth chairmanship was open.

Minutes Of Previous Meeting

Moved by Chuck Lind, seconded by Duane Richardson, and passed by the Board, that the minutes of the June 22, 2008 Board meeting be accepted. The minutes were published in the summer 2008 issue of *The Marker Lamp*.

Reports

President Jerry Schoenberg's report emphasized the need to "support the team" by volunteering and giving back to the hobby. Divisions, Regions and the NMRA cannot function without willing volunteers.

S**ecretary/Treasurer Elbert Smith's** report showed that LSR net worth on Dec. 31, 2008 was $41,761.53. NMRA/LSR membership totaled 992 on Dec. 31st. Membership distribution per Division remains steady.

Achievement Chair Al Boos' report, submitted by e-mail, listed the recipients of thirteen achievement certificates and one Golden Spike award.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson's written report summarized the attendance and financial results of the last eight conventions, and noted highlights of the 2008 convention and the upcoming 2009 convention.

Dispatcher Eunice Linda's report showed that one HO-scale and eight N-scale cars were sold since May 1, 2008. Six HO-scale cars were donated to the Youth Program at the 2008 convention. Current inventory is 83 HO and 528 N cars.

Publications Chair Chuck Lind noted that *The Marker Lamp* publishing schedule requires that Board members submit their reports by January 15.

Web Page Chair Duane Richardson noted that the web site is up and running and that some photos on the LSR web site should be updated.

Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported that an NMRA/LSR table was manned at the Ft Worth train show and that two new members joined then. Division 1 will host a clinic for new modelers that will be presented by Jerry Schoenberg.

Division 2 Director Dick Schneider said the Division is recovering from past weather events, the Baton Rouge S-Gaugers have a permanent home to display their modular layout and Baton Rouge Mid-South will have an operating session February 2nd.

Division 3 Director Duane Richardson reported that they are averaging 40-45 members at monthly division meetings and that they have gotten excellent support from local hobby shops.

Division 4 Director Bill Dryden said that Jack Merkel had hosted two operating sessions for division members with 8-10 people attending each time.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts – The Division partnered with the Science Spectrum Museum, which features interactive science exhibits. On four Saturdays in November they presented a course on model railroading for children aged 12 and under.

Division 6 Director Fred Bock, through e-mail, submitted the name of a young person to receive a Youth membership from the LSR.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell is making arrangements to man LSR-NMRA display tables at train shows in their area. Don found a local N-gauge club to set up and run at the Sci-Port museum in Shreveport during their Transportation Month in December.

Division 8 Director had submitted an end-of-year report. He also told us about the hurricane damage to the Galveston museum and their layout, and about the layouts that were lost in Beaumont.

Membership Chair Larry Swigert told us about his experience at the LSR-NMRA table at the Ft Worth train show. He suggested that the LSR should have appropriate signs or banners to use at train shows and other public events.

Old Business

Net Worth - Jerry Schoenberg reopened the subject of the Board's discussion at the June 2008 meeting about controlling growth of the LSR's net worth. This growth has been fueled by successful LSR conventions. The Board decided at the 2008 meeting to set a cap for our net worth and use any overage for an LSR-sponsored special event at the 2009 convention, an event whose cost will not be included in the convention registration fees. Unfortunately, a number was not set for the net worth cap and therefore it was not included in the minutes. After discussion, the Board's consensus was that, at each yearly Board meeting, the Board should examine opportunities to support a special event at the next convention.

Motion by Dick Schneider, seconded by Bill Dryden and passed unanimously by the Board of Directors: Resolved - That the desired maximum net worth of the Lone Star Region, NMRA, shall be set at approximately $40,000; that, at each annual Board meeting, if the actual net worth exceeds that desired maximum net worth, the excess amount shall be set aside by the Board to finance a special event or function at the next year's LSR convention; that the special event or function shall be chosen by the next year's convention committee and shall be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors; that the special event or function shall be identified as an LSR-sponsored event; and that the expense of that special event shall not be included in the anticipated convention expenses when the convention committee establishes the registration fees for that convention.

Review of LSR Contest Rules – Duane Richardson described the status of a review of these rules. LSR by laws require that changes in contest rules shall be approved by the Board and published in *The Marker Lamp* six months before the next LSR convention. Therefore, the rules will be held as-is without changes until after the 2009 convention.

Review of 2008 Convention – Bill McPherson reviewed the income, expenses and results of past conventions noting various factors that influence the financial results.

Purchase of Digital Projectors and Screens – This equipment will be purchased for use at the 2009 convention. The convention committee's contract with the hotel allows LSR to furnish this equipment.

New Business

Future Conventions

2009 Trinity River Interchange – Registration information will be submitted for *The Marker Lamp* and will be on the convention web site soon.

2010 Convention – The sequence of convention city location calls for the 2010 convention to be in San Antonio. The e-mail report and message from Al Boos, Achievement Chair, noted that the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA) has offered to host the 2010 convention and that Paul Steves has volunteered to be general chairman for the convention.

Continued on page 14

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. **The upcoming events:**

LSR Convention:

Lone Star Region 58th Annual Convention (2009)
Irving, TX

The Lone Star Region NMRA 58th Annual Convention will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving beginning Wednesday, June 3rd and continuing through Sunday, June 7th under the watchful eye of Jerry Hoverson, MMR and Convention Chair, and a fine team of talented volunteer leaders. The Sheraton is conveniently located near DFW Airport. A room rate of $98/night has been negotiated. Other details are being worked out and will be added as the details become more firm — Check the LSR website. **Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Monthly Meeting
Garland
Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website or contact Duane Richardson duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers Meeting
San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum; 11791 Wetmore Rd.; San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Trruner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

DFW Area Lionel Modular Group Meeting
Plano
The DFW Lionel Modular Group meets the second Monday of the month at 6:45 p.m. in the Gladys Harrington Library, 1501 East 18th St.; Plano, TX. For more information call (972) 422-4330.

Houston Area Live Steamers
Hockley ,TX
Come enjoy free train rides on our 7,500 feet of 7½-inch gauge track. Public run days are the 3rd Saturday of the month March thru November. US Hwy 290 and Roberts Road; Times are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. We can always open special days for Model Railroaders. For more info go to www.hals.org or contact Peter Bryan at peterb@ppdq.net

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting
Irving, TX
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the NTC website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or its member clubs. All model railroaders welcome.

Events and Shows:

February 2009
21st **San Jacinto Model Railroad Club - Greater Houston Train Show** Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Adults $6, Children 12 - 18 $1, Children under 12 Free; Free Parking Stafford Centre; 10505 Cash Road @ Murphy Rd.; Stafford, TX Contact: Bob Barnett (713) 660-8820 nights; rbarnett@sparks-barlow.com; Don Bozman (281) 481-0352; don_bozman@att.net; Web site: http://sanjac.leoslair.com
21st – 22nd **Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour**
Sat. 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Adults $10, Children 16 and under Free Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center; 200 E. Market St.; San Antonio, TX Contact: www.wghshow.com
28th – March 1st **Great Train Expo**
Sat. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Adults $7, Children 12 and under Free Ft. Worth Convention Center; 1201 Houston Street; Fort Worth, TX Contact: www.greattrainexpo.com

March 2009
21st – 22nd **New Braunfels Railroad Museum 22nd Annual Train Show** Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $6, Teens (13 - 17) $2, Children (5 - 12) $1 New Braunfels Civic Center; 375 S, Castell Ave.; New Braunfels, TX Contact: Jerry Garteiser jerryg@gvtc.com
28th – 29th **Longview Model Train Show**
Sat. 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $7, Children 12 and under Free Exhibit Building. Longview Fairgrounds, off Hwy 31 on Jaycee Drive Contact: Homer Fleischer; 711 East Methvin; Longview, TX 75608 Phone: (903) 753-9512; Email: homerflash@aol.com

April 2009
25th – 26th **Cotton Belt Train Show**
Sat. 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Adults $6, Children 12 and under $2 Harvey Convention Center; 2000 West Front St; Tyler, TX Contact: Gerald Cooper (903) 839-2501

June 2009
3rd – 7th **Trinity River Exchange LSR Convention**, Irving

Mastering Modeling - Detailing Vehicles

By Tracy Mitchell and Terry Mitchell MMR's

Think of your layout as a play on a stage. The scenery and structures are the sets. They set the scene, mood, and even the era of the play. Because they set the scene they are vital to the stage production.

Now think of the trains as the leading actors and actresses. They are the ones that tell the story and like the scenery, are vital to the performance.

To us, the supporting actors of the Model Railroad world are the vehicles and figures. Vehicles can date the scene. Visitors might not know anything about the railroad you model, but chances are they will know what a 57 Chevy or a Mack Truck look like. If you model an era of early rail roading, the presence of horse drawn wagons and lack of motor vehicles will tell the visitor immediately that you model an era before the depression. Just placing a vehicle on the layout doesn't quite cut it. You need to add detail to make it more life like. Here are a few ideas to help improve your supporting cast on the layout.

Having too many figures and vehicles can make a layout too busy. Most vehicles should be parked, just as it is in real life. Those that simulate movement like on a road should be spaced out at a good distance. Tailgating in HO doesn't look good, nor does a traffic jam.

Real cars are shiny, Right? So why don't glossy cars look right on the layout? Up close cars are glossy but when you back up 50 ft, all but the shiniest show room cars show only a few highlight reflections. So dull your vehicles with a clear flat finish. If you have a vehicle up close to the edge of the layout then try a semi gloss mixture of half gloss and half dull. For the most part, your vehicles should be dead flat looking as if they need a good washing and waxing.

A two tone paint job is a great way to customize a vehicle and not make it look like it came right out of the package and onto the layout. Adding a second color is real easy on a vehicle. Mask off the top half of the vehicle and paint it. You can even get by with using a brush to do this. After you clear coat the vehicle most brush marks disappear.

Chrome trim on vehicles is way to bright, tone it down with silver paint. By the same token adding chrome is a nice detail. Most vehicles have door handles and hood ornaments molded on them. Simply take a silver pencil and highlight the handles, hood ornaments and any other piece that looks like it would stand out.

Getting the trains to work is hard enough, so we can't imagine making vehicles into moving objects, but you can show movement. Try opening a door or a hood. Pose a figure leaning on a vehicle or about to climb out of a car. Turn the front wheel s to make it look like the car has just driven up, or making a corner. Remove a side window or better yet remove only a portion of the window to make it look like the window is half down. All of these idea may not show movement, but they make it look like it is.

The first trick we learned when we were military and car modelers, were the tires didn't look real because they were too round. Flatten the tires!! This is probably the single best technique you can do to add realism to a vehicle. If you look in a parking lot all tires have a flat bottom to them. This is really simple. Sand down one edge of a tire. The trick is to have all four flat sides pointing down. Add loads to trucks or trunks that have the lid open. Loads can be as simple as a few scraps of lumber from your work bench or as complicated as oil drums and crates. Covered tarps are also a neat way. Tarps can be made from Kleenex.

Windshield wiper details are another way to show movement. Cut a pie shaped piece of masking tape and place it on the front windshield. Spray the windshield with Dullcote. Remove the masking tape what you have left what appears to be the wipers were used the last time it rained.

Finally one of the simplest and most effective ways to dress up your vehicle is to add license plates. Every vehicle had one. You can download a license plate from the internet and reduce it down to scale size. Another alternative is a strip of scale 1x6 styrene cut into a foot long length and painted yellow is all you need. No lettering is necessary. The important thing is to add color to the vehicle to make it look like a plate. You can also have one mounted crooked on a truck or trailer to show that it has been hit a few times.

Next time we will talk about how to dress up a figure. Back to modeling now TNT

Elf continued from page 10

I received the call…what time the train will be at west Tower, so I can "officially" board…"…be there at 10:30pm, and we will be there at 11pm….." Where have I heard that before? Of course I arrived at 10:30pm, to find no crew, no train, and only the yard tower staff working, with no idea when it will arrive. Sound familiar? I was offered some coffee, and a tour of the tower, with all I wanted to know about switching operations at night! Long about midnight, the new crew, who will take us to the east arrives, they will go on the clock at 12:30am, with the train due at 1:00am….. I then learned all about "proper procedures for oncoming crews", what paperwork, forms, checklists and on and on, is now required by the FRA to pilot a train. Pay attention you operations folks; you need to review all "slow orders", "track restrictions" with your conductor (it shouldn't take more than 45 minutes) prior to any operating secession. I finally boarded at 1:15am, found my bed, and collapsed. I didn't even remember crossing the Mississippi, on the bridge built by the lowest bidder, I was beat. Vicksburg was again a cold stop, it must be something with being on a river, or something, but the cold north wind blew all day, so as we went back to bag, it was a bit brisk! Bagged approx 1000, usually we have a good crowd, so let's be ready. Then off to clean and fix what needs to be. It seems we have a "small" electrical problem on the green layout….like the main buss for all accessories is out, so I crawl under, it is 24", to see what I can see, a whole spaghetti bowl of wires, that go everywhere and nowhere. This will be a "summer" job, like may 09'!!!

LADIES ONLY!

Petticoat Junction

Mary Lou Schoenberg Non Rail Committee

"Linus" A Project From The Heart

Project Linus is a national non-profit 100% volunteer organization that provides new, handmade, washable security blankets to critically ill and/or traumatized children, newborn to 17 years of age. The only requirements are that the blankets be new, handmade, smoke-free with no pet hair or dander, and free from scented laundry products. These blankets are distributed to hospitals, fire and police depts., shelters, etc. After completion and acceptance by a local chapter, a Project Linus label is sewn on and the following poem is attached:

With Tender Loving Care

"Linus has a blanket that's all his very own.
It comforts and sustains him when he's feeling quite alone.
He knows that others love him for 'twas made with special care
And because it means so much to him, it's carried everywhere.
You too can have a blanket that's created just for you,
To comfort and support you when you're feeling rather blue.
It's yours to keep forever, so you may always know
That others out there love you and to you our wishes go."
By Soni Uhler

Come join us at a convention Non Rail clinic to make a "no sew" tied-fleece blanket to benefit local county areas. Fleece in kid-friendly colors and patterns will be provided, but if you would like to contribute, you need 1 yd. of fleece for a baby or toddler and 1 ½ yds. of fleece for a youth or teenager. The only other supplies needed are scissors and a 6" ruler. At the end of the clinic with the colorful blankets piled high, the sight will warm your heart.

Henry Tolley

February 20, 1949 - January 12, 2009

Henry had been a member of the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club and Life Member of the National Model Railroad Association and Lone Star Region as well as Division 8. He was a third degree member of Knights of Columbus Council 4550 of St. Jerome Catholic Church, currently serving as Recording Secretary. Previously, Henry served as Youth Protection Chairman in the Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and in Troop 540 as Chartered Organization Representative at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Henry achieved two levels in the Order of the Arrow of Boy Scouts.

Continued from page 11

Motion by Chris Atkins, seconded by Don Kimmell that the Board accepts the SAMRA offer to host the 2010 LSR convention. The motion passed.

2009 Election & Committee Chairs - Jerry Schoenberg requested that Board members encourage qualified LSR members to volunteer as candidates for LSR office or for Committee Chairmanships. He noted that all LSR members should try to support other members and the efforts of the LSR. Jerry noted that the Youth Chair position was open. At that time, Educational Chair Robert ""Rocky" Jackson volunteered to assume the Youth Chairmanship also. Jerry gladly accepted his offer.

Changes to By-Laws

Photography – Article 1V Committees, Section 9 Photography, Paragraph c), which reads: Coordinate with the Region Contest Chair and the host city contest Chair on producing 35mm slides of the contest winners for showing at the awards presentation.

Motion by Ray Byers, seconded by Duane Richardson: Replace paragraph with: Coordinate with the Region Contest Chair and the host city contest Chair on producing a digital format show of the contest winners for showing at the awards presentation. The Motion passed.

Membership – Article II Membership and Fees, Section 4 Membership discusses fees for receiving *The Marker Lamp*. The third paragraph of this section now states: Life members of the Lone Star Region as of September 1, 2005 will not be required to pay this fee, and their subscription will be paid through distributions from the Life Member fund. However, the Life fund was transferred into the General fund in 2007.

Motion by Bill Dryden, seconded by Jim Packer: Replace this paragraph with: Life members of the Lone Star Region as of September 1, 2005 will not be required to pay this fee, and their subscription will be paid through distributions from the General fund. The Motion passed.

Donation Request – The Board discussed an informal request from the Huston Area Live Steam club inquiring if the LSR would donate funds to help build or repair a bridge. After discussion, it was the Board's consensus that the LSR should not contribute money for the use of clubs or individuals. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Please Note

There have been several changes on the Call Board page,

Duane Richardson, MMR
Contest Chairman

Rocky Jackson
Youth Chairman

Tracy Mitchell, MMR
Educational Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Elbert Smith

(January 13, 2009)
LSR Financial Accounts

Beginning October 1, 2008		
Checking Account		$3,411.45
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total		$38,806.12
Funds Held For Div. 1 (Not LSR Funds)		$1,960.37
Funds Held For Div. 3 (Not LSR Funds)		$225.60
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts		$40,031.60
Checking Account Income		
Ad, Dealer	80.00	
Ad, Pike	48.00	
Convention 2008 Income	2,635.96	
NMRA Dues	28.95	
Subscription	6.00	
Vanguard MM (CD Fund)	177.37	
Vanguard MM (Convention Fund)	62.98	
Subtotal		$3,039.26
Checking Account Disbursements		
Dues - NMRA	29.85	
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	1,279.48	
Subtotal		$1,309.33
Ending December 31, 2008		
Checking Account		$5,141.38
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total		$38,806.12
Funds Held For Div. 1 (Not LSR Funds)		$1,960.37
Funds Held For Div. 3 (Not LSR Funds)		$225.60
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts		**$41,761.53**

Total NMRA/LSR Membership inside the LSR area on December 31 was 992. Two years ago, the total NMRA/LSR membership inside the LSR was 1001.

New Members – Please take note of these 11 new NMRA/LSR members. They're listed alphabetically by state and by city, and their Division number is shown, to help identify those who live in your area. When you run into them, say hello, and invite them to attend your model-railroading activities

Louisiana
Don Munsey Jr., W Monroe, LA, 07
Texas
Bill Schuster, Dallas, TX, 03
Bob Westphal, Dallas, TX, 03
Edwin Wouters, Driftwood, TX, 04
Nathan Bowers, Garland, TX, 03
Norman Hua, Garland, TX, 03
Will Scotty, Houston, TX, 08
Robert McKinnon, Lake Jackson, TX, 08
Bradley Cummins, Missouri City, TX, 08
William Baxter, Spring, TX, 08
Robert Applegate, Stafford, TX, 08

Company Store

	HO		N-Scale
Casey Lines	OUT		$ 5.00
Texas & African	$5.00		OUT
Waco Austin & Bryan	$5.00		$ 5.00
Anniversary Car 1951	OUT	per set	$35.00
Anniversary Cars 2001	OUT	per set	$35.00
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Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

I hope 2009 is starting out well for you all and the cold weather found you working hard on your layouts. This is always a very busy time of year with the holidays and train shows and the mid-year board of directors meeting.

We had a very good quarterly meeting in November. Paul Dobbs was good enough to put on a clinic about the Alamogordo and Sacramento Mountain Railroad, a New Mexico short line that presents some interesting modeling opportunities. Paul always puts together an excellent slide show with lots of great vintage photos.

December brought us the Ft. Worth train show. This was the first time it was held at the Ft. Worth convention center, and there was a lot of concern about the change of venue combined with the new date. One of the highlights for the Cowcatcher Division was the hard work of LSR Membership Chair Larry Swigert. Larry took the initiative to set up the LSR table at the show. On Saturday, Larry recruited several new members to Division 1.

One way Larry was able to attract new members was to focus on new modelers, especially folks who want to move beyond their Christmas train. I decided, on Larry's suggestion, to focus our Spring Division Meeting on new modelers. In order to do this, we will have Jerry Schoenberg put on his clinic "Build an Operating Model Train Layout the Right Way." Please encourage any new modelers you know to come to the meeting in February.

Show attendance was actually up slightly from November 2007 from 2080 to 2341. While it is exciting to see an increase in children interested in trains, most of the increase in attendance was in free, 12 and under attendees. Overall, the door receipts were nearly flat at $247 less than last year.

This is actually exciting news. There was a lot of anxiety about whether the December date and new location would have a negative effect on attendance. While we were hoping to see a big increase, it was a relief to find out that we didn't have a decline. The larger space made the crowd seem smaller, but the gate receipts show that the crowd was actually very similar to 2007. Be sure to check out the latest information about the 2009 LSR convention "The Trinity River Interchange" in this issue of The Marker Lamp. The registration forms were completed in January, and I'm waiting to get my first completed form. Everything about the convention can be found at http://trinityriverinterchange.com.

Speaking of the spring meeting, it will be held Saturday, February 28, in room 1 of the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area Administration Building at 3400 Bryant-Irvin Blvd., Ft. Worth, TX 76019. If you have any questions, contact me by email at chris@theatkinsfamily.com or call me at 214-222-1285. You can also find out more by checking out the Division 1 website at http://cowcatcherdivision.com.

See you all in February, and bring a friend.

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider

This quarter has slipped past quietly for most of us, leaving the thoughts of Christmas and New Years behind but carrying forward all those inspirations and New Year's resolutions into 2009. Hopefully these resolutions will stick with us throughout the year and that buried amongst them are several that will lead us to be a better model railroader. Personally, I plan to begin the trail leading to the coveted "Master Model Railroader". Hope you have something in mind as well.

Santa gave the Crescent City "S" Gauger's a wonderful present. They now have a permanent home at the Trail Head in Covington, LA. They are located on an old railroad right-of-way on New Hampshire in Covington. CCSG can now place their modular S scale layout on permanent display. The facility has an 18' X 14' display area available, but the club has 25' X 14' in modules, so a bit of compromising will have to be done. It also allows for changing the modules around for different points of view. What a Christmas!!!

The Lake Area Model Railroaders Club of Lake Charles, LA, was given lots of space in the local newspaper. The article was highly complementary of the Club and the Children's Museum in Lake Charles where it is on display.

The MidSouth Model Railroad of Baton Rouge, LA has been steadily making progress on their signaling project. They are now at the 50% milestone with all the 100+ signals built and the command module, computer program, CMRI/JMRI interface well on the way. There are lots of circuit boards, assemblies, and installations still to be built. The club is building this monster from the ground up and it's a phenomenal feat. The layout is still functional and will be open for an "Open Operations Session" on Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 1:00pm to 5pm. Come join in the fun!!

During this next quarter we will visit with the New Orleans "Crescent City" model railroad club, Art Houston's layout in Houma, LA, Lou Schultz' and Walter Rieger's layouts in Covington, LA, the "N" Scalers in Jackson, LA and the Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club in Baton Rouge. LA.

Until next time, we have a saying in the better half of Louisiana, "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – Let the good times roll!

North East Texas Division 3

by Duane Richardson, MMR

In our last report we were getting ready for the coming show season but as I write this it has come to a close. The Plano train show seemed well attended from the traffic by the NMRA table. If made it to the show you couldn't miss our table this year. With the efforts of Larry Swigert we had a great looking sign hanging over the table this year and really helped to pull people in. We signed up several new members again this year as well as bring a few people back into the fold.

Our meetings are seeing great attendance but we have plenty of room for more. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Nicholson Memorial Library in downtown Garland. We are right behind the DART rail station if you want to take the train.

We are rolling full steam ahead in our convention planning. All those little details are starting take shape and fall into place. The Convention this year should be one to remember. The LSR sponsored train ride is going to be a lot of fun. The guest speaker will be one that all can enjoy. If you've ever picked up a Model Railroad Craftsman you will know his work. For years Mr. Carstens as put out a great magazine and his knowledge of our hobby goes back a long ways. I'm really looking forward to hearing his presentation at the banquet. For all of you, like me, who like the clinics, the ever growing list of clinicians is really taking shape. We have a few 'out of town' surprises for you as well. Check out the convention website at http://www.trinityriverinterchange.com/ to keep up with all the things that are going on.

As part of my new duties within the LSR I am looking forward to seeing what you are building and bringing to the contest room. Remember our special contest category for this

year is to build a model in any scale that fits 1 square foot. We did this at the Division 3 meetings a couple of years ago with great results. I'm looking forward to seeing what you have been working on.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bill Dryden, Jr

I am getting started with Division activities, with lots of ground to cover. I solicit help from all members of the Division; please e-mail me when you have news and events so it can be reported to the entire Region. If you have an aol e-mail address, I cannot contact you unless you [specifically] add me to your"white list"; for some reason my e-mails to an aol address are otherwise being blocked by aol. Neither aol nor my ISP can explain why.

Jack Merkel had folks over for two operation session on November 15th, one in the morning and then again in the afternoon. The two sessions were well attended with some 20 participants; good times were had by all in attendance.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Trinity River Interchange in Irving, June 3 – 7. The Convention promises to be another great event, complete with a ride on the Tarantula, an event sponsored by the LSR for all attendees.

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

I believe I have written before on this topic, but since redundancy is the key to learning, I will visit it again.

Every February, the Lubbock Model Railroad Association (LMRA) holds a live auction. I am the auctioneer, chosen primarily because of my Midwestern accent which carries to the back of the room without a microphone.

The rules of the auction are as follows:

The seller fills out a form for each item brought to auction. I capitalize five items on the form and the seller must fill them out completely. They include scale, a brief description of the item, the seller's number (see below), the minimum bid, and the percentage of the selling price they wish to donate to the club. The minimum club take is 10%.

The owner of the item will bring it to the auctioneer with the auction form. It is the responsibility of the auctioneer to fill in the item number.

I will list the club member's bidder/seller number on a sheet of paper in the auction room along with a pile of numbered paper plates. The participants find their number and then locate the paper plate with their corresponding number.

I conduct the auction in the classical format attempting to sell the item at the highest price possible. I read the item description to the club and note the minimum bid, if any. I hold up the item for the group to see.

If interested in an item, the bidder holds the plate in the air so the auctioneer can see the number. The bidder is encouraged to keep the plate in the air until bidding is finished. The winner is the last bidder with his number in the air.

The auctioneer notes the winning bidder's (buyer) number on the auction form and the amount of the winning bid. He will subtract the percent of hold for the club and calculate the remaining amount due the seller. The winner then claims the item, pays the price to the buyer's table, and the seller gets that amount less the percentage that goes to the club.

For example: the seller places a boxcar with a minimum bid of $5.00 and the minimum 10% going to the club. The boxcar eventually sells for $10.00. The auctioneer notes the winning amount of $10.00 on the auction form and notes $1.00 (10%) going to the club. The seller receives $9.00 from the seller's table ($10.00 - $1.00 = $9.00). The club keeps the dollar.

The club member may check out at anytime. Waiting until the end of the auction is NOT necessary. The seller's table will have enough cash at the start of the auction to pay off any seller. Likewise, buyers may bring their money to the buyer's table any time at their convenience.

I assign each participant in the auction a number ahead of time. This becomes both the buyer's and seller's number. I prepare this list before the auction and write the numbers on the back of paper plates.

As each item comes to bid, two club volunteers keep the financial books. There is a separate book for the sellers and one for the buyers. As a high bidder wins an item, the keeper of the seller's book looks up the page where the seller's column appears and in that column records the item number and the amount of the winning bid. In a similar fashion, the keeper of the buyer's book finds the page and column for that buyer and records the item number and the amount of the winning bid.

Not only is this a good method of checks and balances for bookkeeping, but by totaling the columns the sellers know how much money they have coming. The buyers know how much they owe.

I supply cash boxes with money for making change and a small calculator for each table.

I have all the forms and paperwork needed for the auction on my computer. If anyone is interested, I will gladly send a complete set.

The annual February auction is not only fun, but has become the club's best money maker of the year.

What you need for an auction:

An auction form, one for each item.
Paper plates (numbered)
Two cash boxes with cash for change
A form with columns on it to track the buys and sells (one for each table)
Two small calculators
Paper and pencils
Lots of tables

Division 6

by Fred Bock, MMR

The San Antonio N-trak group (SANTRAK) is on the verge of signing a rental agreement with a high-tech property owning firm here in San Antonio for occupancy of a 2400 square foot warehouse + small office space. The space is such that it is hard to rent commercially, but is just fine for setting up a large N-trak "permanent" layout. I expect that agreement to be finalized momentarily, and SANTRAK to be moved into its new quarters by the end of the month. The facility is only about an 8-10 minute drive from the Live Oak Civic Center, where most San Antonio train shows are held.

There is supposedly a very loose FREMO HO group in San Antonio that I just heard about. I will try to get more information as I am able.

Our local N-scalers, the Red River N-gineers, did a show at our SciPort in downtown. SciPort was featuring exhibits on transportation, so they fit right in. The received some early-5/6am-live TV coverage, and generally seemed to have had a good time. It has helped raise awareness of the hobby. I understand the local hobby shop did sell some more train sets in the after Christmas period.

Speaking of train shops, I understand that the HobbyTown in West Monroe has changed ownership, and is actively seeking some help on getting a display layout going. According to my source, they are becoming "train friendly". A train store in that part of the state had been lacking. I hope for the best over there.

One of our local MMRs, has finally finished his remodel, and is starting on a new narrow gauge layout. He informed me he was seeking some help to do some backdrop work. Good Luck Charles!!

Well, that is all up here, I look forward to seeing everyone at this years convention in Irving. They do have a great web site up and running, and the D/FW area is always a fun place to visit. Hope to see you there in June.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Greetings from North Louisiana, I hope every one had an enjoyable Holiday Season and Santa put your favorite toys under the tree.

First off, upcoming train shows-the important stuff!

Our first one is the **JETTS/Longview** train show-**March 28th and 29th,** at the usual place-Longview Fairgrounds. There was some scheduling conflicts, so they moved it to the last weekend in March. This is always a good one, a diverse group of vendors, who usually have some good deals, and always a couple of great club layouts. So don't miss it.

Our next show is the **Tyler Tap/Cotton Belt** show in Tyler Texas; this is **April 25th and 26th,** held at the Convention Center in downtown. While this is not a "big" show, the folks in Tyler always make you feel welcome, and if you are in the least bit interested in the Cotton Belt, make sure you attend.

Well we had our usual fall season here in the far eastern part of the LSR. The Marshall, Texas/T&P Show was another success, they did raise some more funds for their restoration efforts, had a good crowd, Vendors made some money, and there were a number of great deals made. All-in-all everyone had a good time. They are slowly working to restore their steam locomotive, this is their "long-term" project. So if you are in the neighborhood, stop by the station in downtown and say hello.

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

Division 8 has had a good year in 2008. Division 8 membership has stay on 256 members for most of 2008. Southeast Texas had some tuff time in August and September with two Hurricanes to hit the area. There were some layouts that did receives some damage, but most of them have made there repairs an are running again. Galveston and Beaumont areas were hit real hard by the storms, I only know of three major lost's one in the Beaumont area and two in the Galveston area.

In October the Division held its annual Picnic at Zube Park. This year was a election year for all board members, all posts were filled. Reelected were Ray Byer as President, Jim Long as Vice-President, Tracy Mitchell as Secretary, and Peter Bryan as Treasurer. These Division 8 Board members will come up for election again in October 2011. Ronnie Pennington was doing the job of Division 8 Secretary for many years (thanks for the hard work) I hope he will fill out his paper work and sent it in.

This year the Division held the LSR convention in Houston. A great many of reports from all of the people who attend, said they had a great time there. Two of the big highlights were Tracy's Hand on clinics and Jerry's stories at the convention dinner that night. Am happy to report that the 2008 Convention made money this year. How much will be posted later.

I hope that 2009 will be has much fun as 2008 was.

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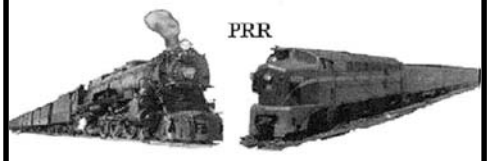

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